REMARKS

The Office Action mailed February 23, 2005 has been received and the Examiner's comments carefully reviewed. Claims 1-32 are currently pending. Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims are now in condition for allowance.

It is noted that Applicants submitted a Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement on August 29, 2003. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to return a copy of the initialed 1449 Form with the next communication.

Double Patenting

Claims 1-32 were provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-28 of Application No. 09/815,161 (PGPUB: US20020136392 A1). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection; and nonetheless, respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection in light of the abandonment of Application No. 09/815,161.

SUMMARY

It is respectfully submitted that each of the presently pending claims (claims 1-32) is in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is requested. The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representative at the below-listed telephone number if it is believed that prosecution of this application may be assisted thereby.

23552
PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Date: May 19, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.

P.O. Box 2903

Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-0903

(612) 332-5300

Karen A. Fitzsimmons

Reg. No. 50,470

KAF:cim